INCIDENT COMMANDER (NQS)

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Incident Management
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Incident Commander (IC) is responsible for the overall management of the incident and determines which Command and General Staff positions to staff in order to maintain a manageable span of control and ensure appropriate attention to the necessary incident management functions.
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Incident Management Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation and meals, prior to deployment. 3. Requestor specifies any additional qualifications necessary, based on incident complexity and needs.

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Coordinates operations at the state, local, tribal, and territorial level or across jurisdictions	Same as Type 3	Same as Type 4, PLUS: 1. Works as a member of a Unified Command, when established 2. Approves all plans and operations outlined in the Incident Action Plan (IAP) 3. Coordinates operations at the state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) levels or across jurisdictions 4. Supervises Command and General Staff 5. Indirectly supervises all other incident personnel through subordinate Incident Command System (ICS) management positions (command staff, section chiefs, branch directors, division/group supervisors, unit leaders and strike team/task force leaders)	The IC has overall leadership and management responsibility for the incident–which may require numerous personnel and resources. The IC: 1. Develops and implements a transition plan based on escalating incident complexity 2. Delegates various management tasks by assigning objectives to Command and General Staff personnel 3. Provides overall leadership to all assigned incident personnel	Not Specified
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
TRAINING	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Same as Type 4, PLUS: 1. E/L 0950: National Incident Management System Incident Command System All-Hazards Incident Commander Course, or equivalent 2. United States Fire Administration (USFA) O-0305: Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Introduction, or equivalent	Completion of the following: 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 3. ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents 4. ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Command and General Staff – Complex Incidents 5. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 6. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 7. E/G/L 0191: Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface	1. Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives. 2. The NIMS Training Program defines a national baseline to guide and promote NIMS training. It provides recommendations to assist Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in developing their own training plans, tailored to their specific needs.
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the NIMS Type 1 Incident Commander, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 2 IC	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Incident Commander, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 3 IC	Same as Type 4, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Incident Commander, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 4 IC 3. Satisfactory performance as a task force leader or strike team leader, or equivalent supervisory experience	Satisfactory performance as a single resource boss or leader, or equivalent supervisory experience	Not Specified
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Same as Type 4	Light	The NIMS Guideline for the NQS defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NQS positions.
CURRENCY	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Same as Type 4	Functions in this position or a higher position during a qualifying incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years	A higher position is one for which this position is a prerequisite.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified

NOTES

1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.
2. Additional training on this position is available from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group at https://www.nwcg.gov/positions.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Incident Management Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Operations Section Chief
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Planning Section Chief
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Logistics Section Chief
5. FEMA, NIMS 509: Finance/Administration Section Chief
6. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Incident Commander, latest edition adopted
7. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
8. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017
9. FEMA, NIMS Training Program, May 2020
10. FEMA, National Response Framework, October 2019
11. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Position Catalog, latest edition published
12. United States Fire Administration (USFA), O-0305: All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Introduction, latest edition published